Chapter 4

Subsection and Prescription Areas

Ecological Subsections

Ecological types have been classified and mapped using a hierarchical system that stratifies ecological units into progressively smaller units of increasingly uniform ecological potentials. The Curlew National Grassland boundaries fall within two subsections[1] the *Humboldt River High Plateau (342Ba)* and the *Curlew Valleys and Lake Sediments (342Bb)*. These are described and listed below.

Humboldt River High Plateau Subsection (342Ba)

LOCATION: BASIN AND RANGE AREA OF SOUTHERN IDAHO

This subsection includes the Basin and Range physiographic areas of northeastern Nevada, northwestern Utah and southern Idaho. Potential natural vegetation is generally a mixture of sagebrush steppe, basin big sagebrush and mountain brush communities. The highest elevations (not within the Curlew National Grassland boundaries) in this subsection have Douglas-fir plant communities on north aspects. Dryland and irrigated agricultural practices have removed sagebrush and mountain brush cover in some areas of this subsection. Geology consists of Paleozoic marine sediments, rhyolitic flows and shallow intrusive rocks.

Approximately 33,093 acres of land within the 75,000-acre Curlew National Grassland boundary are within this subsection. Land ownership includes Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, State and private.

The mountain ranges and valleys have an elevation range of 5,135 to 7,500 feet. Slopes range from 5 to 60 percent. Mean annual precipitation ranges from 8 to 25 inches. Natural disturbances consist of fire, flooding, insects and disease. The fire return interval is 20 to 40 years on the mountain big sagebrush cover types and 40 to 80 years for Wyoming big sagebrush types. Human-caused disturbances include grazing, agriculture, human-caused fire and some mining.

[1] A **subsection** is an ecological subdivision of land that has similar geology, lithology, geomorphic processes, soil groups, subregional climate, and potential natural communities.

LANDSCAPE SETTINGS: MOUNTAINS, FOOTHILLS AND FANS, AND VALLEYS

The mountain elevations vary widely with slopes ranging from 15 to 60 percent. These landscapes include ridges and mountain sideslopes that are formed in sedimentary and volcanic parent materials. Soils on the ridges are shallow and those found on the mountain sideslopes are moderately deep to deep. Vegetation consists of sagebrush steppe and mountain brush on the open exposures and Douglas-fir on the north exposures.

The foothills and fans are located at the lower elevations with slopes ranging from 5 to 35 percent. These landscapes include rolling hills, fans and foothills of mountains that are formed from sedimentary and volcanic parent materials. Soils are deep and very deep, and vegetation consists primarily of big sagebrush and bluebunch wheatgrass.

The valleys are the lowest elevations with slopes ranging from 5 to 25 percent. The valley bottoms formed from alluvium and depositional processes such as eolian (wind) deposits and lacustrine (lake) deposits. Soils are very deep and vegetation is big sagebrush and bluebunch wheatgrass.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE HUMBOLDT RIVER PLATEAU SUBSECTION

- Presence of mountain brush plant communities, containing the majority of native vegetation remaining on the Curlew National Grassland.
- Occurrence of basalt flows
- Steeper mountain slopes
- Higher precipitation
- Sagebrush steppe is predominantly Basin big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata v. vasyana)*
- Higher productivity and higher erosion potential

Curlew Valley Lake Sediments Subsection (342Bb)

LOCATION: ANCIENT LAKE BONNEVILLE

This subsection includes valleys of the Northern Basin and Range section that have been influenced by ancient Lake Bonneville. These valleys were formed from alluvium derived from the surrounding mountain ranges and sediments from Lake Bonneville in the portions of this subsection that extends from Utah into southern Idaho. Potential natural vegetation consists of basin big sagebrush, sagebrush steppe and salt desert shrub. Geology consists of Quaternary detritus and Pleistocene glacial-lake and shoreline deposits.

Approximately 41,723 acres of land within the 75,000-acre Curlew National Grassland boundary are within this subsection. Land ownership includes Federal Government (Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service), State, and private.

The valleys have an elevation range of 4,500 to 6,000 feet. Slopes range from 0 to 25 percent. Mean annual precipitation ranges from 5 to 18 inches. Natural disturbances consist of fire, flooding and insect and disease. Fire return interval is 20 to 40 years on the sagebrush cover types. Human-caused disturbances include grazing, agriculture, human-caused fire and some gravel pit mining.

LANDSCAPE SETTINGS: VALLEY BOTTOMS AND SHORELINE TERRACES

The valley bottoms are at the lowest elevation with slopes ranging from 5 to 15 percent. This landscape includes bottomlands that formed from alluvium and lacustrine deposits from old lake sediments. Soils are very deep, have sandy textures and are often high in salt content. Vegetation consists of basin big sagebrush and salt desert shrub.

The shoreline terraces and fans are located at the highest elevation of this subsection with slopes ranging from 10 to 25 percent. These landscapes include terraces left by the receding Lake Bonneville, and fans from adjacent mountain slopes. Soils are deep to very deep and have high salt content. Vegetation consists of sagebrush steppe.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE CURLEW VALLEY LAKE SEDIMENTS SUBSECTION

- Presence of salt desert shrub plant communities
- Lacustrine (lake deposited) soils
- Unnamed sagebrush taxa associated with old shoreline terraces
- Lake terraces containing high amounts of gravel
- Majority of bulbous bluegrass that is found on the Curlew
- Sand dune features
- Lower precipitation and productivity
- Elevation range is 4,570 to 5,100 feet above sea level

Management Prescriptions

Introduction

Management prescriptions, a set of management practices, are applied to a specific area of land to attain multiple-use and other goals and objectives. The purpose of management prescriptions is to provide a basis for consistently displaying management direction on Forest Service administered lands. Management prescriptions in the Forest Plan are intended to provide a general sense of the management direction or treatment of the land where each prescription is applied. They identify the emphasis and focus of multiple-use management activities in a specific area; however, ***emphasis,*** as used in this context, is defined as a focus or a highlight and does not necessarily mean exclusive use.

Management prescriptions provide a more focused view of specific land areas and how they will be managed. The specific direction stated in a management prescription determines what uses are allowed and to what extent the uses are permitted. Grassland-wide direction applies to the prescription areas unless superceded by the direction in the prescription.

The prescriptions are organized in categories and presented in a sequence allowing progressively more active management. Management prescriptions are not designed to stand alone. They are one part of the management direction package that also includes *Grassland-wide* goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines. Where a management prescription allows an activity, such as recreation or livestock grazing, the standards and guidelines in the prescription or in the Forest-wide direction provide specific parameters within which the activity must be managed. In land areas where prescriptions are applied, direction in this section would override forest-wide direction. Management prescriptions follow a number sequence, where lower numbers reflect less intensive management or use, and larger numbers reflect more human use or development. The Prescription Area Categories are explained at the beginning of each Category Section. On the Curlew National Grassland, there are no Category 1, 5, or 7 presciptions applied. These are wilderness or backcountry areas, forest ecosystems, and intermingled lands, respectively.

Placing a management prescription number or title on an area does not make a decision about how any future site-specific conflict will be resolved. The responsible local Forest Service official has the discretion to determine how such conflicts may be resolved, through informal administration or more formal environmental analysis. When doing environmental analysis for future site-specific decisions, consideration must be given to the entire management direction package for a particular land area, including the goals, objectives, prescriptions, standards, guidelines, and desired conditions to be achieved in the area.

If an emergency event occurs on the Forest, deviation from these standards and guidelines may occur in order to protect human life, property values and structures, and forest resources.

Activities in response to emergency events include such things as law enforcement, search and rescue, floods and fire fighting.

ADD A MAP OF THE RX AREAS HERE

CATEGORY 2

Areas of land where Category 2 prescriptions are applied provide for conservation of representative or particular rare and narrowly distributed ecological settings or components, such as riparian areas, wetlands, research natural areas or other special designated areas. These lands help insure conservation of ecosystems or ecosystem components that may provide important functions which insure the overall sustainability of larger landscapes. Human influences on ecological processes are limited to the degree possible but are sometimes evident. Human uses vary, but they are generally non-intensive. Travel is generally non-motorized.

PRESCRIPTION 2.8.8 - RIPARIAN/WETLAND AREAS (RWA)

This prescription applies to the RWAs associated with reservoirs, ponds, perennial and intermittent streams and wetlands. These areas control the hydrologic, geomorphic and ecological processes that shape the various water types and directly affect aquatic life. They also provide unique habitat characteristics that are important to those plant and animal species which rely on aquatic, wetland or riparian ecosystems for all or a portion of their life cycle. Many such habitats are locally rare and are sensitive to disturbance. Overall, these areas serve as important reservoirs of biodiversity; critical linkages for the interchange of plant and animal genetic material; specialized areas of nutrient cycling and freshwater filtration, storage, and transport; and are important to water quality.

Management emphasis is directed at the application of ecological knowledge to restore and maintain the functioning condition of these areas in ways that also produce desired resource values, products, protection, restoration, enhancement, interpretation, and appreciation of these areas. Efforts are made to encourage adjacent landowners to improve riparian areas to meet state and federal water quality standards.

RWAs provide high levels of aquatic protection and maintain ecological functions (e.g., sediment transport, microclimate control, nutrient regulation, and connectivity within the watershed) and processes (e.g., stream channel formation, plant community development, recruitment of organic material including woody materials, and hydrologic cycles) necessary for the restoration and maintenance of habitat for aquatic and riparian dependent organisms.

This management prescription is defined on the ground using boundary widths as defined in the table below. The RWA is a zone of special emphasis for the maintenance of riparian and stream channel processes. Sweeten Pond is not included in this prescription, it is managed as a Special Wildlife Area (Rx 3.4.1).

Table 4. 1: RWA zone widths for streams and water bodies on the Curlew National Grassland

STREAM TYPE	WIDTH ON EITHER SIDE OF CHANNEL**
Fish-bearing stream reaches	150 feet
Perennial non-fish-bearing reaches	75 feet
Reservoirs, ponds, wetlands greater than 1 acre	150 feet
Intermittent* channels, wetlands less than 1 acre	75 feet

***** Flowing less than 50% of the time

**Default values unless defined otherwise by hydrologist and/or biologist

Goals

1. Minimize adverse effects to aquatic and riparian dependent animal, plant and invertebrate species from existing and proposed management activities.

Maintain or restore RWA ecological condition and function which includes stream channel processes and plant, animal and invertebrate habitat.

Maintain or restore natural variability of water table elevations in meadows and wetlands.

Maintain or restore diversity and productivity of native and desired non-native deep-rooted plant communities that assist in regulating surface and bank erosion and support native and desired non-native populations that contribute to the viability of riparian dependent communities.

Objectives

2. For riparian improvement, corridor fence those streams that are "at risk" and will benefit from that fencing by 2008.

By 2010, on the remaining perennial streams, outside of existing riparian pastures and corridor-fenced "at risk" streams, fence into riparian pastures--using existing pasture boundary fences to the extent possible.

Ecological Process and Patterns

FIRE/FUELS

Standard

3. Prescribed fire or vegetation treatment of lands adjacent to RWA's must be compatible with management prescription goals.

4. Fire retardants will not be used within RWA's.

Guideline

5. Avoid locating base camps, staging areas, hazardous material storage facilities, or other centers for incident management activities within this area. Exceptions may be granted on an individual basis following a review and recommendation by a resource advisor. The resource advisor will prescribe the location, use conditions and rehabilitation requirements.

Physical Elements

LANDS

Guidelines

6. Avoid locating utility corridors and their access roads in these areas whenever possible and minimize adverse effects if the areas cannot be avoided.

Issue leases, permits, rights-of-way and easements to avoid effects that would prevent attainment of RWA goals.

Biological Elements

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Guideline

7. Manage RWA to accommodate or promote adequate habitat requirements for fish, amphibians, birds and mammals.

Forest Use and Occupation

ACCESS

Standard

8. Existing and new culverts and stream crossings will be designed or improved to accommodate at least a 100- year flood event, including associated bedload and debris.

Guidelines

9. Avoid locating new roads or trails in RWAs, consistent with the Curlew Roads Analysis.

Improve, relocate or obliterate road or trail segments that have been identified in the Curlew Roads Analysis as not meeting the goals of this prescription area.

RECREATION AND OUTFITTER/GUIDE

Standard

10. New recreation facilities and trail corridors will be constructed outside RWA's.

Guideline

11. Adjust dispersed and developed recreation practices that delay or prevent attainment of RWA goals.

Production of Commodity Resources

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Standards

12. Riparian utilization levels will be established at the site specific level based on the PFC status of the stream using approved protocols in an interdisciplinary process. The protocol will set stubble heights, percent utilization limits, bank disturbance, soil disturbance, and woody species utilization limits depending upon the stream condition and channel type.

New livestock watering facilities, corrals, and holding pastures will be placed outside RWA's.

Developed seeps and springs will have excess water returned to the drainage channel and the source will be fenced to exclude livestock. Exclosures are designed to maintain the vegetation community and hydrologic function of the spring.

When corrals are reconstructed or replaced they will be relocated outside the RWA.

Modify grazing practices as necessary to comply with Idaho water quality standards and Clean Water Act requirements including Total Maximum Daily Load limits (TMDLs).

Guideline

13. Grazing should not be allowed within riparian corridor fences unless it is needed to maintain plant vigor. Before allowing livestock grazing, a site-specific evaluation must be conducted and a determination made by a journey-level hydrologist or biologist that entry will not compromise RWA goals or reduce water quality below that needed to comply with state water quality requirements and sustain beneficial uses. Fences can be removed when the streams reach Properly Functioning Condition (PFC). These reaches will then be included in a riparian pasture and grazed as determined by the protocol developed.

When constructing corridor fences, provide gaps in the fences to allow livestock access to water. If necessary, harden water gaps to reduce sediment.

Adjust grazing practices that do not meet RWA goals.

CATEGORY 3

Lands where Category 3 prescriptions are applied provide for a balance between ecological values and human uses. Resource management activities may occur, but natural ecological processes and resulting patterns will normally predominate the landscape. Although these land areas are characterized by natural appearing landscapes, an array of management tools can be used to restore or maintain relatively natural patterns of ecological processes. Lands in this prescription category show some evidence of human activities. Restrictions on motorized travel can vary from area to area and season to season.

PRESCRIPTION 3.4.1 - SPECIAL WILDLIFE AREAS

This prescription applies to those rangeland sites that are managed with an emphasis on developed wildlife habitats, specifically Sweeten Pond and tree row areas. These sites represent limited and unique habitats not found on other areas of the Grassland. Development includes intensively managed, often fenced tree rows with introduced shrub and tree species. Sweeten Pond developments include water impoundments, pumps, spillways, and fencing with natural appearing ponds and wetlands; uplands are natural in appearance comprised of both native and non-native vegetation.

Because of the unique nature of these areas, the greatest diversity of wildlife species occurring on the Grassland will be found on lands under this prescription. Livestock are not permitted in these areas. Recreation users may occasionally be encountered; during the fall months upland bird/game bird hunters are frequently encountered.

Goals

14. Maintain and develop those unique habitats which support a diversity of wildlife species.

Promote opportunities for additional wildlife viewing and interpretation.

Objectives

15. Maintain existing fences annually to meet wildlife habitat goals each year.

Maintain water in Sweeten Pond each year, by pumping when needed.

Biological Elements

VEGETATION

Standards

16. Native and non-native grass, forb and shrub species will be used in the composition for revegetation after disturbance and reflect those species preferred by native grouse for pre-nesting, nesting and brood rearing.

Vegetation treatments are allowed when they meet wildlife resource goals of this prescription.

WILDLIFE

Standard

17. Treatments and developments will emphasize maintenance and improvement of wildlife habitat.

Forest Use and Occupation

ROADS AND TRAILS

Standard

18. Construct no new roads.

RECREATION

Guidelines

19. Recreation activities are permitted as long as they do not detract from the goals of this prescription.

Maintain Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) in semi-primitive nonmotorized.

Scenic Integrity Objective- High to moderate.

CATEGORY 4

Lands where Category 4 prescriptions are applied provide for the management of ecological values to provide human recreational uses, such as developed and dispersed recreation areas. Recreation uses are within levels necessary to maintain overall ecological systems. Resource uses for other values generally are not emphasized and have little impact on ecological structure, function or composition. Sights and sounds of humans, on site, can be expected and even desired. Motorized transportation is common.

PRESCRIPTION 4.1.2 - DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES

This prescription applies to inventoried developed recreation sites, such as campgrounds, trailheads, and wildlife viewing areas. Levels of development range from native material roads and camp sites to paved roads, concrete walkways and picnic shelters.

Visitors will encounter other people, seeing and hearing motorized vehicles and other human activity. Site facilities and modifications will be evident. Visitors may gather down firewood for camping, but home-use firewood gathering is not permitted. Visitors generally will not find livestock within developed recreation sites but livestock grazing may be evident adjacent to these areas.

These prescription areas are not all mapped on the management prescription maps due to their small size. Prescription area direction applies wherever these areas occur on the Grasslands.

Goals

20. Provide for a variety of concentrated public recreation uses in a predominantly natural setting based on the character of the areas and visitors' needs.

Protect and enhance a natural appearing environment while maintaining a variety of developed recreation opportunities.

Promote wildlife viewing opportunities when compatible with developed recreation use.

Provide opportunities for interpretation.

Ecological Process and Patterns

INSECTS AND DISEASE

Guideline

21. Control disturbances, such as insects and disease, consistent with recreational goals.

FIRE/FUELS

Guidelines

22. Prescribed fire generally will not apply here; it may be used however, to obtain more properly functioning conditions in preference to soil-disturbing techniques.

23. Natural fuels will be reduced or otherwise treated so the potential fireline intensities will not exceed 100 BTU per second per foot on 90 percent of the days during the regular fire season (Burning Index<40).

Physical Elements

SOILS

Standard

24. When rehabilitating detrimentally disturbed soil, use techniques that do not detract from the recreation opportunity.

Guideline

25. Avoid new construction on unstable or highly erodible soil.

LANDS

Standard

26. Corridor rights-of-way will avoid developed recreation areas.

RECREATION AND OUTFITTER/GUIDE

Guidelines

27. Developed campgrounds and picnic areas that have a seasonal use level of 40 percent or higher should be managed at the Standard Service Level.

Those campgrounds with less than 20 percent season-long use may require closure of sites first, and then, if needed, closure of the entire facility.

Manage for semi-primitive motorized to rural Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS).

Manage for appropriate visual quality objective of partial retention or modification. Facilities are often evident but harmonize and blend with the setting.

CATEGORY 6

Lands where Category 6 prescriptions are applied are primarily non-forested ecosystems that are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. Ecological conditions are maintained with an emphasis on selected biological structures and compositions that consider the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use and/or activity, density of facilities, and evidence of vegetation manipulation activities. Facilities that support various resource uses are common. Motorized transportation is common, but some seasonal restrictions may occur.

PRESCRIPTION 6.5 – RANGELAND VEGETATION and UPLAND BIRD HABITAT MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this prescription is to maintain the current acreage of mature sagebrush (greater than 15 percent canopy coverage) at the end of the decade, while increasing the amount of acres in the 6-15 percent canopy class to improve habitat for sage grouse nesting and brood rearing. Management would also emphasize improving wildlife habitat and understory diversity.

Generally, the Grassland presents a natural appearance interspersed with landscapes that are agricultural or rural in character. A variety of rangeland vegetation successional stages may be present, ranging from areas with recent fires or treatments to late successional structure. More than half of the sagebrush acres in this prescription are in a late seral status.

Forage is provided on a sustained basis that protects watershed values and wildlife habitat. Domestic livestock grazing is present in most areas, and visitors will see range improvements such as fencing, vegetation treatments and stock tanks.

A wide variety of sagebrush/grass associated wildlife species may be encountered as well as wildlife associated with mountain brush vegetation types. Upland game bird hunters are likely encountered during the fall months.

Vegetation manipulation (with the use of fire, mechanical means, or herbicides) may occur to achieve or maintain properly functioning vegetation conditions. A variety of rangeland vegetation successional stages can be observed. Range riders and horse trailers may be seen at various times especially while moving cattle to different fields. Dispersed recreation activity generally occurs throughout these areas.

Goals

28. Maintain the current levels of sagebrush in the >15% canopy cover with an emphasis on treating those acres that are in the greater than 25 percent canopy cover class to maintain sage grouse habitat.

Maintain livestock grazing consistent with other resource values.

Establish a collaborative process to share information and management objectives on intermingled and adjacent lands under different ownerships.

Provide opportunities for adjacent landowners to work with public land managers in the attainment of resource objectives.

Objectives

29. Within 10 years of signing the Record of Decision, treat 2,500 acres of bulbous bluegrass (2200 acres in >15% cc and 300 acres in < 15% cc) and reseed with native and non-native grass, forb and shrub seed mixtures.

Within 10 years of signing the Record of Decision, treat 9,600 acres of sagebrush with herbicide or other appropriate methods to reduce canopy cover and achieve other resource objectives.

Guideline

30. Design treatments to retain approximately 40 percent of the sagebrush acres in sage grouse nesting habitat (15-24% canopy cover).

Ecological Process and Patterns

FIRE/FUELS

Guideline

31. Prescribed fire may be used to achieve desired ecological conditions or resource objectives.

Biological Elements

FISH/WATER/RIPARIAN

Guideline

32. Prioritize streams that are "at risk" and that have the potential for restoration.

VEGETATION

Guidelines

33. Bulbous bluegrass dominated sites and sagebrush stands with >25 percent canopy cover will be priorities for treatment.

Consider maintaining dense (>15%) sagebrush cover adjacent to private land that has less sagebrush than is desirable for quality sage grouse habitat.

WILDLIFE

Standard

34. Do not treat sagebrush within 0.25 miles of an active sage grouse lek.

Guideline

Time treatment practices to provide the least impact to wildlife with emphasis on upland game birds.

Current guidelines for sage and sharp-tailed grouse management will be used as a basis to develop site-specific recommendations for proposed sagebrush treatments. Lek buffers as described in the most current guidelines do not apply to the Grassland, because of the highly fragmented nature of the area and the distance that hens are known to move to nest (Biologist Meeting 10/24/01). Rationale for deviation from the other guidelines will be identified in the site-specific project analysis.

Areas of vegetation treatment will consider sagebrush canopy cover, understory diversity and proximity to known active lek sites. Higher priority will be given to treatments of sagebrush in the greater than 25% canopy cover class and areas with limited understory diversity.

When implementing vegetation seeding treatments, provide for a seed mix with species that are preferred by native upland birds during the pre-nesting, nesting and brood-rearing periods, where possible. See Appendix C.

Forest Use and Occupation

ROADS AND TRAILS

Guideline

35. Maintain access at current levels and consistent with the Curlew Roads Analysis.

RECREATION AND OUTFITTER/GUIDE

Guidelines

36. Recreation and interpretation facilities may be provided.

Maintain Recreation Opportunity Spectrum in roaded natural to semi-primitive motorized.

Facilities may be provided to reduce adverse resource impacts at heavily used dispersed recreation sites.

Production of Commodity Resources

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Standard

37. Apply livestock utilization levels, as measured by key area[2] concept, unless determined otherwise through the interdisciplinary team process. Average percent utilization of upland herbaceous vegetation across the Grassland will be 50 percent by dry weight each year. Allowable use levels in individual pastures, however, will be determined in the Allotment Planning Process and Annual Operating meetings.

Guideline

38. In pastures dominated by crested wheatgrass, higher use levels (>50% by dry weight) may be prescribed to maintain overall plant health and vigor. Use levels may be lower (35 to 45% by dry weight) in pastures dominated by native vegetation and in areas of 16-25 percent sagebrush canopy cover to leave adequate residual vegetation for hiding cover. These levels would be determined using an interdisciplinary, adaptive management process and will likely change from year to year.

[2] **Key Area** - A relatively small portion of rangeland which because of its location, grazing or browsing value, and/or use, serves as a monitoring and evaluation site. A key area guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part, and will reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the range.

CATEGORY 8

These lands are likely to be permanently altered by human activities. Ecological values are protected where they affect the health and welfare of human occupancy. Mines, utility corridors or other concentrated uses are included in this prescription category. Human activities are generally commercial in nature and provide jobs and incomes. These areas are generally small and motorized transportation is common.

PRESCRIPTION 8.1.2 - CONCENTRATED DEVELOPMENT AREAS

This prescription applies to all existing concentrated developments including active mines, borrow pits, gravel pits, electronic sites, utility corridors (electric transmission lines of 50 Kv or greater, and major natural gas conduits), and administrative sites (including guard stations). These are generally highly developed areas with much evidence of people, structures, roads, and disturbed ground. High noise levels sometimes emanate from these sites due to the use of heavy equipment or blasting at various times. Other sites are collections of buildings and storage structures from which the administration of the Grassland is carried out.

Goal

39. Allow concentrated development in areas for mineral, oil and gas development and infrastructure needs.

Physical Elements

LANDS

Guidelines

40. Allow energy and/or utility corridors on the Grassland; allowable widths would be determined based on the project proposal and analyzed at the site-specific level.

Restrict concentrated development sites to the smallest area possible.

Biological Elements

VEGETATION

Standards

41. Noxious weeds will be monitored for two years after activity area is disturbed, if weeds appear, they will be treated.

Only gravel from weed-free sources will be used on the National Grasslands.